

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in the subject application. Claims 11 and 15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 11 and 15 are pending in the application. Claims 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vohlgemuth (U.S. Application Publication No. 2001/0015006) view of Rich (U.S. Patent No. 4,102,040).

In the Amendment filed September 27, 2007, we argued that claim 11 would not have been rendered obvious in view of Vohlgemuth and Rich because the combined reference do not teach or suggest the claim notch portion in which “each of the notch portions comprises a linear slit extending partially through the cylindrical iron core” Specifically, in Vohlgemuth, the slit formed between the adjacent edges 19’ of the sectors 11’ extends completely through the core since the bridge 30 interconnecting the sectors 11’ lies outside the outer circumferential face of the sectors 11’.

In response, the Examiner asserts that:

in the embodiments shown in Figs 3-6, the Vohlgemuth core having notch portions, which referred as material bridge 30 in Fig 3, or bridge 40 in Fig 4, or bridge 50 in Fig 5, or bridge 60 in Fig 6. These notches (30, 40, 50, 60) are formed materially and integrally as part of the core, and each of these notch portions comprise a linear slit in the radial direction, as shown in Figs 3-6, the slit does NOT cut through the core's portions (30, 40, 50, 60) to completely separate the core sectors (11'). Therefore, the slit is read to be partially extending through the core. Whether the core's portions (30, 40, 50, 60) being outside the outer circumferential face thereof or not is [relevant] because the claimed language does not specifically recite the size/shape of the notches or the core's outer circumferential surface.

After carefully considering the Examiner’s response and the disclosure of Vohlgemuth, we believe that it may difficult to convince the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 11 without further amending the claim. As discussed on our letter of July 30, 2007, the Examiner position that the bridge 30 as part of the core, and therefore, the bridge 30 prevents the slit from extending

completely through the core, does not appear to be entirely unreasonable. Further, the combination of Vohlgemuth and Rich appear to disclose or suggest the other features of claim 11.

With regard to dependent claim 15, the Examiner asserts that “Vohlgemuth’s cylindrical core is formed of a helically wound band plate (as show in Fig 1) which includes the linear slits which are abutted and aligned (as shown in figs 3-6).” Although Vohlgemuth discloses that the core is formed from a helically wound band plate, the linear slits of Vohlgemuth’s core are not abutted and aligned, as required by the claim language. Instead, the linear slits of Vohlgemuth’s core are offset from one layer to the next (see paragraphs 49-51 and FIG. 9 of Vohlgemuth). Therefore, we propose amending claim 11, to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 15.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 15, 2008

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